

## Crown Prince: Logic of war prevails

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday that "the logic of war" still prevails and the war in the Gulf was still very much a matter for the generals. "However, if there is going to be a cessation of hostilities, it can only come by an appeal by the United Nations Security Council to both parties to cease hostilities," the Crown Prince told the *Vision* television. The difficulty facing the Jordanian initiative and those of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Union of Maghreb states has been that it is one side that is expected unilaterally to announce that it will withdraw from Kuwait and then to appeal for a ceasefire and allows the capitulation which, realistically speaking at the present moment, does not appear at all possible," he said.

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## Moroccans stage mass march for Iraq

RABAT (R) — An estimated 300,000 people marched through the streets of Rabat Sunday in a pro-Iraqi parade organised by five opposition parties and Islamic fundamentalists. The well-organised parade was the first officially-authorized street demonstration in Morocco since independence in 1956. No incidents were reported and security forces kept a low profile. Security sources said there were 70,000 people. The organisers claimed one million. An independent count by eyewitnesses reckoned there were about 300,000. The marchers carried banners denouncing the United States, Israel and their allies, and burned American, French, British and Israeli flags on the main square in the centre of the city. The three-hour-long parade was organised by five opposition parties led by the old-guard Istiqlal Party and the Socialist Union of People's Forces (USFP), trade unions, lawyers, human rights and student groups. Bringing up in the rear were several thousand Islamic fundamentalists waving copies of the Koran and chanting Allahu Akbar or "Justice and democracy."

# Iraq says missiles 'avenge Arab blood'

## Baghdad threatens attacks on allied interests everywhere

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID SUNDAY it fired missiles at Saudi Arabia and Israel "to avenge the Arab blood (spilled) in Iraq and Palestine" and to retaliate against allied air raids.

Iraq also said it would hit American and Western targets worldwide in retaliation for allied air attacks on its civilians.

"The interests of the United States everywhere in the world will also be the target. There is a difference between terrorism and struggle. This is a legitimate act," Baghdad radio said.

"The target will not be confined this time to the soldiers of the United States, the mercenaries of its allies, or its collaborators in the holy lands in the Arabian Peninsula."

The radio said the United States and its allies "will pay dearly for their aggression against the Iraqi people and the institutions they built with their sweat and money."

An Iraqi spokesman said two missile strikes were launched against Israel and a number of Scuds were fired at the Saudi capital, Riyadh.

## Respite in air raids; missile attacks continue

Combined agency dispatches

A MISSILE CRASHED into a downtown section of Baghdad late Sunday afternoon, sending up a white column of smoke that signalled yet another attack on a capital battered for weeks.

It was the first sign of an air attack since before dawn when a loud explosion somewhere in the city signalled what probably was the arrival of another missile.

The sides over Baghdad were quiet Sunday, free of the sounds of aircraft overhead during frequent air raids. The bombing missions that began on Jan. 17 appear to have hit every warehouse in Baghdad. The allies seemingly are taking no chances of missing a military storage facility.

Several bridges in the city also have been destroyed.

Cruise missiles fired by U.S. warships sometimes strike residential areas. Local newspapers publish pictures showing houses and schools hit by missiles.

"The Iraqi people now know the type of civilisation and new world order that the president of the United States wants to bring to the Arab region...." Iraqi radio said in a commentary Sunday.

"Our heroic missile force dealt a destructive blow to the city of Riyadh, the den of treason, disgrace, infidelity and atheism with Al Hussein (modified Scud) missiles after midnight last night," he was quoted as saying by the radio.

"In response to the enemy attacks and to avenge the Arab blood in Iraq and Palestine, your heroic missile forces last night used Al Hussein missiles to deal a devastating blow to Tel Aviv....," he added.

Iraq said it was hit by two Iraqi Scuds late Saturday and early Sunday. But the missiles missed Israeli cities and did not cause any casualties, it said.

In Riyadh, 29 people were reported wounded by flying glass. Saudi Arabia, where most of the U.S.-led multinational troops are based, said the missile exploded after being intercepted in mid-air by U.S. Patriot missiles.

Iraq has fired 29 missiles at Israel and 28 against Saudi Arabia since the hostilities broke out on Jan. 17.

"Oh heroic men of the missile force, continue your blows, God is on your side. The challenge will continue until they (aliens) recognise

... our right to our land and the rights of our people of Palestine," the spokesman said.

Al Qadisiya, the Defence Ministry daily, said Iraq was "fighting the mother of battles on behalf of the Arabs and Muslims to liberate our Islamic holy shrines from claws of the atheist invaders."

A commentary on Baghdad Radio said President George Bush was mocking God by their own side near the Saudi-Kuwaiti border town of Khafji while two others were killed in a helicopter crash while on "escort duty," according to the spokesman.

Israel said it was hit by two Iraqi Scuds late Saturday and early Sunday. But the missiles missed Israeli cities and did not cause any casualties, it said.

The seven marines were on a reconnaissance mission Jan. 29 when they observed Iraqi forces trying to cross the border, Major General Robert Johnston told a daily briefing.

"Bush has chosen a God of his own, a God that will fulfill the wishes of George Bush," said the radio. It also said Mr. Bush was exploiting the feelings of the parents of soldiers in the Gulf who want them to go home "alive and not in plastic coffins."

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## Nusseibeh's jail term cut; Husseini questioned

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel Sunday cut in half, to three months, the prison sentence imposed without a trial on Palestinian activist accused of spying for Iraq.

An army statement announced the reduction of the detention order for Sari Nusseibeh, a 41-year-old Palestinian professor, after a court found the shorter sentence would likely cover the duration of the Gulf war.

Dr. Nusseibeh, was detained last Tuesday on allegations that he was "collecting security information for Iraqi intelligence, especially after the missile attacks on Israel."

Dr. Nusseibeh has denied the allegations, and the London-based human rights group Amnesty International termed him "a prisoner of conscience." It said that available evidence suggests he was jailed for "his peaceful political opinions and activities."

Dr. Nusseibeh was educated at Oxford University in England and Harvard in the United States. He is a professor of philosophy at Bir Zeit University in the occupied West Bank.

He is known as a moderate among activists supporting the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). In its statement, Amnesty noted that he is "known for his stand and public activities

in favour of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis."

Dr. Nusseibeh is being held under "administrative detention," a practice dating to British rule in mandatory Palestine that allows people to be imprisoned without formal charge or trial.

Asked to approve the jailing, the court recommended Sunday that Dr. Nusseibeh be held for three months instead of the six months originally ordered, a defense ministry statement said.

Police meanwhile questioned another Palestinian leader this weekend for allegedly forcing an Arab to give false testimony on the Oct. 8 massacre in Jerusalem, officials said Saturday.

Faisal Al Husseini, a pro-PLO activist, was questioned for two hours Friday night and then released on his own recognisance, police said.

He said police suspected Mr. Husseini of threatening an Arab from Jerusalem into lying about the Oct. 8 incidents.

The Arab man, who was not identified, told police his earlier testimony was false, given under pressure from Mr. Husseini and other Palestinian leaders, police said without elaborating.

Investigation was continuing and police could not say if charges would be brought against Mr. Husseini.

## Algeria: Allies want to destroy Iraq

BRUSSELS (R) — The United

States and its allies are using the Gulf war as a pretext to destroy Iraq, Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghosali said Sunday.

He said the allies' declared aim in sending troops to the Gulf — "to defend" Saudi Arabia — had been extended first to retaking Kuwait and then to knocking out Iraq's military and economic capacity.

"One is driven to conclude that the liberation of Kuwait is ultimately no more than a pretext and that the initial goal, perhaps, even before the invasion of Kuwait, was the destruction of Iraq," he said in an interview on Belgian television.

Mr. Ghosali said allied aircraft had targeted Iraq's social and economic infrastructure and inflicted thousands of civilian casualties.

"It's been said that this is a surgical war. Well, there is microsurgery and there is major surgery and here it's something other than microsurgery," he said. Iraq says 320 civilians have died and 400 have been wounded in coalition attacks.

Mr. Ghosali met Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi in Tehran Saturday.

He said Iraq had not consulted Iran before scores of its aircraft flew to the safety of Iranian air bases last week.

Mr. Ghosali said he thought a diplomatic solution to the crisis was still possible, adding that there had been no opportunity for real negotiations before the war started on Jan. 17.

Asked what he thought of Iraq's threat to use chemical weapons, Mr. Ghosali replied that the United States had 1,900 nuclear warheads in the Gulf region.

"What is the difference between saying 'I will use chemical weapons' on the one hand and on the other saying nothing but having 1,900 nuclear warheads?'

Iran's chief judge said Tehran wanted to "extinguish fires" of the Gulf war through its neutrality and diplomatic clout in the region.

"This is not a war between Islam and infidelity but it is a war between (arrogant) might and expansionism," the national news agency IRNA quoted Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi as saying.



BOMBED OUT: Rescue workers sift through the rubble of buildings hit in the allied bombardment of Iraqi cities, towns and villages (Al Qadissiya photo)

## Lebanon, at peace for once, becomes spectator to war

By Mohammad Salam

The Associated Press

BEIRUT — The Lebanese, ravaged by war for more than 15 years, are relishing their newfound peace and unaccustomed role as spectators in the Gulf war.

But they are eyeing neighbouring Israel warily, fearful Palestinian bases in Lebanon could be targeted if the Israelis are dragged further into the conflict by Iraq's Scud missile attacks.

Cartoonist Pierre Sadeq captured the bemusement of many Lebanese. In a Sadeq cartoon in the newspaper Al Dylar, two Lebanese men are watching the war on television. One says to the other: "We're watching those who've been watching us for more than 15 years."

Beirut and its environs have been at peace, more or less, since early December, when militiamen withdrew from the city under an Arab League-sponsored peace plan overseen by President Elias Hrawi and backed by Syrian troops.

Under the plan, the militias are supposed to disarm as the Lebanese army, with Syrian support, reinstates government control over the country.

"We're not the tools, and we're not the victims of a war in the Middle East for the first time in 15 years," said Ibrahim Hasbini, a Muslim bank employee. "Of

— and not much more restrictive — was Iraq," he said. "I certainly saw more action with the Iraqis (against Iran) than now with the Americans."

Greg English, an Associated Press photographer who is not in a pool, echoed Clinton's remark: "The last time I had so much trouble taking pictures was in South Africa."

Of the 757 journalists and technicians registered with the U.S. Joint Information Bureau (JIB), 106 were assigned to pools. About half of them wait in Dharan, some camp with combat units, and others make brief forays to ships or air bases.

The Defense Department designed 12 pools and let journalists themselves determine who would be included. Coordinators drew up lists, not without bitter disputes.

Several television correspondents and photographers who sought to cover the war outside of the pool had their credentials revoked by the Saudi authorities.

Public affairs officers frequently intercede to direct questions and rephrase answers. When one naval officer spoke of "captured" Iraqis, after their boat was sunk,

course, one feels sorry for the people being killed in the Gulf, but at the same time, it's not our war."

So far, the plan to formally end a civil war in which an estimated 150,000 people have been killed seems to be working, although not everyone is sure the peace will last.

"It's nice to enjoy peace, especially when the world around you is on fire," says Jacqueline Qabbout, a housewife. "The people in the Gulf have enjoyed their wealth and spent their millions lavishly when we were living like rats in bunkers and underground shelters."

The Lebanese government has declared its support for the allied coalition in the Gulf war and for the restoration of Kuwait's toppling government.

Although Lebanon is not directly involved in the war, its effects are being felt here.

Since the war began Jan. 17, six bombs have exploded at Western and Saudi targets in Lebanon.

The worst blast, at a bank in Baalbek half-owned by a French company, killed a security guard.

The prices of basic commodities have jumped by at least 35 per cent in Lebanon since the allied air attack on Iraq began, and many Lebanese have rushed to stockpile food, fuel and drinking water.

The government has sent in

spectors to penalise gas stations, groceries and bakeries that sell souvenirs at inflated prices.

Some Lebanese radio and television stations have been broadcasting war news around the clock. Many Beirut restaurants and nightclubs installed TV sets so their clientele could keep up with developments.

"We used to switch off the music and put on news flashes because everyone was really interested. But some people complained that they go out to night clubs to forget their own war and not to watch somebody else's," said waiter Antoine Jajj at one night spot west Beirut.

"Now we've put the TV in a separate room. The waiters spread the word to those who're interested if there are any major developments in the Gulf and they rush to watch."

Many Lebanese are worried that if their southern neighbour, Israel, becomes involved in the war it might attack the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) estimated 6,000 guerrillas in South Lebanon.

"Of course we'll suffer again if Israel takes part in the Gulf war," said Hussein Haider, who runs an import-export business in Beirut.

"Israel would certainly try to eliminate the PLO force in Lebanon, regardless of whether the Palestinians were attacking it or not," he commented.

## Egypt's opposition calls for Gulf ceasefire

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's main opposition parties Sunday called for a ceasefire in the Gulf to allow for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

But they offered no suggestion on ways to end the crisis and said a truce should not be linked to an Iraqi pledge to pull out of Kuwait.

The influential Muslim Brotherhood, the leftist Socialist Labour Party, the Liberal Party, the National Unionist Progressive Party and four other smaller groups held a press conference during which they issued a statement:

"We condemn the brutal attack launched by the American and allied forces on the Iraqi people."

He said for an Arab country to occupy another is clearly unacceptable but the solution should come from "within the Arab family without the intervention of foreign forces."

Mr. Hubdei said the allies are destroying Iraq to leave Israel as the only military power in the Middle East.

"No matter what sin the ruler of Iraq and his regime have committed, we cannot have a response which only makes things worse."

"The destruction of Iraq means that the only country with any power in the region will be Israel... we should not be helping him by sending our troops (to the Gulf) to achieve our enemies' goal," he said.

Almost all opposition parties have boycotted the last parliamentary elections because of allegations of fraud and are not represented in the People's Assembly, where the government's Gulf policy enjoys overwhelming support.

The leaders said the statement issued Sunday will be circulated among the population to gather signatures and then will be delivered to the presidential palace.

## Iran paper suggests mass boycott of Haj

NICOSIA (R) — A Tehran newspaper said Sunday Iran and other Muslim countries may boycott the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in protest at the presence of the U.S.-led forces in Saudi Arabia.

"Participation in this year's Hajj ceremonies in view of the massive presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia to massacre Muslims cannot be accepted by Islamic Iran," said Tehran Times.

Iranian officials have condemned bombings of civilian targets in Iraq by allied aircraft in the Gulf.

"In case of war being prolonged and brutal bombardments of Iraqi residential areas continued by the U.S.-led coalition from Saudi soil... Muslims may stage an all-out ban on Hajj ceremonies in protest against the house of Saud (Saudi royal family) inviting infidel troops to its sacred land," the paper said in an editorial carried by the national news agency IRNA.

This year's Hajj rituals fall in June.

The paper, which has in the past reflected the views of the Foreign Ministry, said Iraq and Yemen, Jordan, Sudan, Libya, Algeria, Mauritania and Lebanon may stay away from the pilgrimage to the holy sites in Mecca and Medina.

Iran has boycotted the ritual for the past three years following the killing of more than 400 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, in clashes with Saudi police in 1987.

Tehran has refused to accept a Saudi ban on political demonstrations during the Hajj and a quota system limiting the number of pilgrims individual countries can send.

One of Iran's leading clerics has accused President George Bush of slaughtering Iraqi civilians in allied bombing raids.

In a letter to the U.S. president, Grand Ayatollah Moham-

mad Reza Golpayegani said forcing Iraq from Kuwait was no excuse for killing innocent Iraqis.

"To oust Iraq from Kuwait does not give you the right to launch thousands of raids on residential areas or massacre civilian people," he said.

"You should know the world holds you and Saddam (Hussein) responsible for the war."

He said no international laws or United Nations resolutions authorized such action.

He condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, called on Iraqi troops to withdraw from the emirate and for foreign troops to leave the Gulf.

"This is not a war whose consequences you can tolerate easily, even if you could presumably win a military victory."

"Mr. President, you have set aside the region by such mass killings. You should fear that the flames should spread to the world," he said.

Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Javad Mansoori said Sunday Iran will not allow Pakistani volunteers wanting to fight for Iraq in the Gulf war to cross its territory.

The Jamiat Ulema-I-Pakistan political party has said about 110,000 Muslims volunteers want to join Iraqi troops in a jihad against the U.S.-led allied forces and it had asked Iran to grant them passage.

Mr. Mansoori told a news conference that "no possibility at present exists" for allowing such passage as Iran was neutral in the war and harried by international law from doing so.

But he said Pakistan could send relief goods to Iraq through the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

JNP leader Shah Ahmad Noorani said last month his party had also asked the Pakistan government for permission to send the volunteers it had recruited across the country.

## Spaniards, Britons stage anti-war rallies

TORREJON DE ARDOZ, Spain (Agencies) — Thousands of protesters marched Sunday to demand the shutdown of joint U.S.-Spanish military bases used as staging points for U.S. troops fighting in the Gulf war.

An estimated 3,500 people began the 11-kilometer walk from Madrid to the air base at Torrejon de Ardoz, a major stopover for U.S. troops and supplies headed to the Gulf since Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

Another group of about 3,500 marched towards the U.S.-Spanish naval base at Rota, on the southern Atlantic coast, according to the independent Spanish news agency Europa Press.

Both groups demanded the shutdown of all joint-use bases in Spain, an end to the Gulf war and the return of three Spanish warships patrolling Arabian waters to support the U.N.-ordered trade embargo against Iraq.

There was no protest planned at Moron air base, in the southern province of Seville. U.S. B-52 stratofortress bombers have been using Moron as a base to launch carpet-bombing attacks in Iraq. The Spanish government says it

is providing logistical support of the U.S.-led multinational coalition fighting Iraq, but refuses to provide details.

Thousands of demonstrators, calling for an end to fighting in the Gulf, marched through London Saturday in the biggest anti-war protest in Britain since hostilities broke out 17 days ago.

A spokesman for Scotland Yard police said an estimated 18,000 people took part in the march but organisers put the figure at more than 20,000.

"We are accused of not supporting 'our boys' in the Gulf. The best possible support we can give to our members of the armed forces is to stop this war," Bruce Kent, a vice president of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), told a rally in Hyde Park.

A retired German admiral said before the rally that the war was being fought to smash Iraq not to free Kuwait.

"The United States wanted this war not to liberate Kuwait but because it wanted to destroy Iraq's military capability in an area of strategic importance," Rear-Admiral Elmar Schmahl told Reuters.

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is providing logistical support of the U.S.-led multinational coalition fighting Iraq, but refuses to provide details.

Journalists under heavy restrictions on war coverage

By Mort Rosenblum  
The Associated Press

DHAHRAN — U.S. military arrangements for covering Operations Desert Storm are blocking access to the war, masking reality and leading to contradictory reports, journalists say.

With limited eyewitness accounts, the reporters say, readers and viewers around the world were dependent upon allied communiques and Defence Department briefings for news on the war with Iraq.

In the first ground battle, at Khafji, a press pool was kept far away from the action. Pool reporters had to quote staff officers from field headquarters.

Reporter and photographers who got into Khafji on their own found a quite different picture than that offered at headquarters, with intense firefights by probing Iraqis. U.S. public affairs officers arrived and ejected non-pool newsmen.

The pool later produced gripping details after marine artillery enabled the Saudis to secure Khafji. But, without direct re-

porting on how effectively the Iraqis fought, they relied on allied sources.

Journalists called that the latest in a series of difficulties in a system which discourages officers and fighting men from speaking frankly and keeps newsmen from seeing things firsthand.

"The pool system is an abomination," said Malcolm Browne of the New York Times, who reported from Vietnam in 1961 before the first U.S. casualty.

## Palestinian anger simmers under longest ever Israeli curfew

By Robert Mahoney

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM** — Without money, hope or enough food, Palestinians are growing restless after more than two weeks confined to their homes by the Israeli army.

Israel is afraid to let them out with the Gulf war still raging but equally fears the simmering anger and frustration could boil over into revolt, particularly in the volatile Gaza Strip, security sources said.

To ease the pressure the Israeli army has lifted the curfew for a few hours in some towns and refugee camps in the past few days.

But occupation forces refuse to let more than 100,000 Arab workers return to jobs inside Israel even though this would relieve the desperate lack of money in the occupied territories.

"The authorities are frightened that if they let Palestinians back into Tel Aviv the attacks will begin again," one security source said. He was referring to a spate of attacks on Israelis late last year after police shot dead at least 20 Palestinians in Jerusalem.

"It only takes the Arab with a knife to try to establish the linkage," he said, referring to linkage between the Gulf crisis and Israeli occupation of Arab lands that some Israeli politicians con-

cede has already been established with Scud missiles landing on Israel.

Palestinians see Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as a champion of their three-year-old revolt against Israeli rule and accuse Washington and its anti-Iraq coalition of double standards.

Whistling and cheering erupted in many houses when Iraq fired another Scud missile against Israel on Sunday morning. Witnesses said soldiers fired into the air in several towns to quieten the celebration.

The defence ministry has blocked proposals to bus Arab workers under army escort to jobs in Israel, the sources said.

"Even if we lift the curfew (Defense Minister Moshe) Arens is not willing to risk letting them back," one source said.

"There is no room for experiments," Brigadier-General Fredy Zach, the number two administrator for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, told reporters Sunday.

That is bad news for Salim, 33, of Gaza's Shati camp. He has worked in Israel for 16 years, supporting his extended family of eight people.

"We are desperate. I have run out of money," he told Reuters by telephone. Reporters have been barred from the Gaza Strip since the curfew was clamped on its 650,000 residents 18 days ago.

"We don't have the money to buy the few vegetables and fruit which are on sale."

The U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) took advantage of a few hours curfew relaxation last week to start distributing three kilogrammes of skimmed milk and 50 kilogrammes of flour to each refugee family.

"Nobody is starving but there is very little food and the situation is coming were people do not eat enough," an UNRWA official said.

Residents said oranges were falling unpicked from trees and tomatoes rotting in fields while many farmers sat in the cinder block houses of Gaza's grim refugee camps.

Hashem Elshawa, director of the Association of Citrus Growers in Gaza, appealed in a telegram to Arens Sunday for the curfew to be lifted.

"A lot of families are hungry and desperate," he said.

UNRWA officials said the more than one million people in the West Bank were also suffering although the curfew was less strictly enforced in villages away from the 1967 green line border with Israel.

"It's Gaza which is one whole refugee camp and very tense," a security source said. "It might take just one incident to trigger an explosion. People are frustrated enough to do it."

## Rain increases Kingdom's water reserves

**AMMAN** (Petra) — Rain has increased the Kingdom's supplies of water collected in the various dams and seeping underground. To assess the amount of water collected by the King Talal Dam, Water and Irrigation Minister Saad Hayel Al Srour Sunday paid a visit to the dam and its electricity generating plant.

The minister was briefed by officials at the site on the water discharge and purification systems. He inspected the dam's electricity generating plant. The plant generates electricity through two water turbines, with

a generating capacity of 3,000 kilowatt per hour each.

Srour also visited Jarash water department where he was briefed by the department head on the water situation in the district.

The minister visited the water distribution station in Baqaa and listened to a briefing by an official on water distribution in the area.

In an interview with Petra, Srour said that since the rain season for this year was late, it caused common concern among Jordanians. However, the minister said, the heavy rainfall during the last two weeks has increased

the country's reserves significantly, giving Jordanians a feeling of relative relief.

Water Authority Secretary General Abdul Aziz Al Wabash said in a statement to Petra that the recent heavy rainfall increased the water collected in King Talal Dam from six million cubic metres just two weeks ago to 14 million cubic metres now. He noted that Wadi Al Arab dam holds now six million cubic metres of water and that Wadi Shueib and Kafra dams have one million and two million cubic metres respectively.

"We are desperate. I have run out of money," he told Reuters by telephone. Reporters have been barred from the Gaza Strip since the curfew was clamped on its 650,000 residents 18 days ago.

**'Arabs-out' activist voted into Israeli cabinet**

**TEL AVIV** (Agencies) — The Israeli cabinet on Sunday voted to include in the government a new, right-wing minister who advocates the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories.

The decision must be approved by parliament where Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir — who pushed for the inclusion of Rabin Zeevi in the cabinet — controls a majority of the votes.

Three ministers voted against the inclusion of Mr. Zeevi of the far-right Moledet Party in the cabinet. Two abstained.

The three who voted against were key officials in the government and of Mr. Shamir's Likud bloc: Foreign Minister David Levy, Justice Minister Dan Meridor and Health Minister Ehud Olmer.

Israeli media reports said Mr. Shamir nominated Mr. Zeevi to broaden his coalition and strengthen his position against any hand-in-hand compromise, as advocated by the United States.

Mr. Zeevi would become a minister without portfolio and the 4th member of the cabinet. He could also be included in the so-called defence cabinet of key officials who decide military and security issues.

Mr. Zeevi's party calls for the transfer of Arabs from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He defended his position Sunday in Israel Radio.

"I said that if the Arabs of the land of Israel hurt us operationally, disrupt life as part of a total war they have been called to do by their leaders, headed by Ayatollah Khomeini, then they will have to understand they will then be expelled," Mr. Zeevi said.

He denied Moledet stood for "blood transfer," saying it's all "for transfer by will or agreement."

Since the Gulf war erupted on Jan. 17, Mr. Zeevi has been a strong advocate of swift Israeli retaliation against Iraqi missile attacks.

The war is not only on the borders of Iraq and Kuwait and is limited to missile attacks on oil. After this war, there will be the fight over the future of the land of Israel," Mr. Zeevi said in a television interview.

## Americans evacuate more staff

**AMMAN (R)** — The American embassy said Sunday it was evacuating more staff from Jordan after anti-Western attacks in the region.

"Certainly the general situation has prompted another look at embassy levels," the embassy's spokesman said, when asked if the move was connected to recent anti-Western attacks.

The spokesman himself was

one of those being evacuated.

A diplomatic source said 10 to 12 people were being sent home, leaving about 20 of the original 130 staff at the mission.

Several Western embassies in Yemen were attacked last week in retaliation for the Western-led war on Iraq. Baghdad on Sunday renewed threats to hit U.S. and Western targets worldwide.

Yemen is suspected members of their country's armed forces.

— Polish President Lech Wałęsa was quoted Saturday as saying he would be prepared to go to Baghdad in the search for a peaceful solution to the Gulf war.

In an interview with the Catholic weekly *Il Sabato*, Mr. Wałęsa also called for greater public pressure to force both sides in the conflict to reach a negotiated settlement.

"I'm ready to go to Baghdad," he said. "I have a clear duty imposed on me by being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize."

— A senior French envoy, on his way home from Gulf war talks in Iran, stopped off in Ankara Sunday for talks with Foreign Minister Ahmet Kurtoğlu. Alptekin.

A French diplomat said François Chevallier, secretary-general at the French Foreign Ministry, discussed the Gulf war with his Turkish counterpart Tuncay Özcer.

— A further 320 Gulf refugees crossed into Iran from Iraq and were housed in temporary camps, the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

It said the refugees from Sudan, Tunisia and India entered through Khorasan, the main crossing point with Iraq in western Iran.

— A senior Kuwaiti diplomat flew to Tehran Sunday carrying a message to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani from Kuwait's exiled emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwait news agency said.

No further details were available of the trip Iran by Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, a minister of state for foreign affairs of the toppled Kuwaiti government.

He left Taif en route to Iran.

— Sixty Canal authorities were searching a Cypriot cargo ship Sunday after receiving information it might be involved in an Iraqi-backed attack on the strategic waterway, a canal official said.

The official said the Neos, a general cargo ship flying under the Cypriot flag, was detained at the northern tip of the Suez Canal in Port Said Saturday.

## Marines

(Continued from page 1)

reduce the number of embassy personnel in Ankara next week, a government official said Sunday.

The official said the Turkish request would be relayed to Iraq's ambassador in the next few days.

Iraq would be asked to reduce its staff by one-third, including all its intelligence staff, the official said.

Iraqi embassy officials were not available for comment. Twenty diplomats are officially listed as working out of the embassy.

Gen. Johnston said in Riyadh that another death inside Saudi Arabia may also have been caused by "friendly fire." In that incident, first reported Saturday, one marine was killed and two wounded when a bomb dropped on a convoy.

The General said the United States and its allies had flown 2,500 missions in the previous 24 hours. This took the total to more than 41,000 since the war began on Jan. 17.

But he said there had been very little action along the border between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Baghdad radio also said Sunday that seven American airmen shot down by Iraqi anti-aircraft fire had been turned over by Syria to the U.S. embassy in Damascus, but Syria and the Kuwaiti news agency said.

The official Syrian Arab News Agency said the report was "completely fabricated."

"We've heard that story. The story is untrue," said Bill Murphy, an embassy spokesman in Damascus.

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Her Majesty Queen Noor listens to Dr. Abdullah Khatib (on the Queen's right) during a meeting the Queen chaired Sunday (Petra photo)

## Queen Noor chairs meeting of voluntary, charitable societies

**AMMAN** (J.T.) — As part of Jordan's preparations for developments resulting from the Gulf war, Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday chaired an expanded meeting of charitable and voluntary societies in the Kingdom.

The Queen was briefed on the work of voluntary societies, civil defence and the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) in general and their preparations for emergencies in particular.

Head of the General Union

of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdulllah Al Khatib told the meeting that the number of volunteers offering themselves to work in emergency situations reached 50,000. In-kind and cash donations were generously offered by Jordanians, Khatib reported.

Heads of various voluntary

groups presented briefings on their activities, which, among other things, cover the provision of ambulances, food and

medical supplies, shelters and evacuation centres.

Queen Noor lauded GUVS' efforts and expressed appreciation of the private sector's contributions to the national effort.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Development, JNRCS, the Civil Defence Department, the General Federation of Jordanian Women and Noor Al Hussein Foundation Director General Inaam Al Mutti.

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# Jordan Times

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## Rightness of the cause

THE U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Kuwaiti situation were many and multi-staged. They started off with condemnation of Iraq and its occupation of Kuwait and calls for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops. In the second stage the resolutions put in place an embargo regime on Iraq for refusing to oblige Washington and its inner circle allies to pull its forces completely and unconditionally out of Kuwait. The third and final stage was resolution 678 which purportedly authorised the use of force against Iraq in view of the bankruptcy and ineffectiveness of the first and second stages enunciated and adopted by the council. The minute this third stage was put into effect, it has effectively and legally superseded the first and second stages of the council's resolutions.

Against this backdrop, continuing the embargo on Iraq is no longer tenable, legal or necessary. Accordingly all countries are at liberty to disregard the food and medicine sanctions imposed on Iraq as being redundant and because of being superseded by the war option exercised by some of the council members. That's why neither Jordan nor Syria nor Iran are duty bound to respect the council's embargo on Iraq and Kuwait and may now replenish the food and medicine needs of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people unhampered by any still operative resolution of the council.

But until the world community realises its own folly in accepting and following America's leadership blindly, Jordanians will do everything they can to uphold international law and legitimacy while sticking to their principled position on opposing this pointless war and its terrible consequences and objectives.

The fact that the U.S. has chosen to overlook or ignore Jordan's adherence to U.N. resolutions, by bombing civilian cars and people and targets, does not mean that we will abandon our principles and beliefs. This country and its people will always remain convinced of the rightness of our cause: we are against foreign hegemony and the systematic destruction of an Arab sister country, but we are equally committed to peace and negotiations as the way to solving problems, no matter how great these troubles are.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

PRESIDENT Bush has asked the American people to pray that God may help the allied forces win the war which, he said, is being waged against the elements of evil, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. It seems that his call to the Americans was meant as a prelude to what is coming ahead: bodies of American troops killed in battle, the paper noted. Bush's call to the people could also be interpreted as an escape from accusations levelled at the U.S. administration by the American clergy and religious leaders who maintained that America was waging an immoral war in violation of all religious and political principles and all human values, the paper noted. Bush's call on the people to pray for the crime he continues to commit in Iraq and elsewhere in the world, can not absolve him from a grave responsibility for the death of innocent people, and can by no means convince anybody of his views or innocence, the paper continued. The American president is waging a war against the Muslim and Christian Arabs alike, and is intent on destroying an Arab country and Arab culture; and we believe that the faithful in the United States will pray today Sunday invoking God's curse on the warmongers and calling on God to bring them speedy defeat, the paper added. It said that all the faithful around the world are called on to pray for an end to the war and an ignominious defeat for the aggressors.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says that as a result of the government decision to allow private cars to run on alternate days, a real confusion was created among Jordanians. Of course it is understood that the government's decision was aimed at reducing public fuel consumption under the present difficult circumstances, but the majority of people are going to suffer as a result because there was no due consideration or ample time given to such decision as many people have been saying. Salah Abdal Samad notes. He says that the government should realise that it is the people who decide whether any given order can succeed or fail, depending on the response it receives; and as long as the majority are against such measure since they can find no alternative to using their own cars as there is no regular public transport system to function in all regions, the government ought to re-consider the order and not for other effective measures, the writer points out. He says that rationing the petrol through coupons like the milk, sugar and rice, and a campaign through the media and information services urging people to economise in fuel consumption can achieve the aspired results and aims. A carefully-studied situation and a wiser decision, the writer says, can by all means prompt the Jordanian public to accept the call for rationing if it is done in a manner that would not deeply hurt the normal social life of people.

# An ideological vision executed by a man of enormous will

By Sana Atiyeh

AMMAN — Ever since the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2 and the events that led to the U.S.-led war against Iraq, the West has by and large failed to understand, or chose not to understand, why Iraq went into Kuwait and what was behind the decision not to give it up even at the cost of war.

Why did Iraq go into Kuwait and insist on linking a resolution of the Kuwaiti issue to a settlement of the Palestinian problem while the West, particularly the U.S., persisted in rejecting such linkage? How is it that Iraq is steadfast and fiercely resisting the U.S.-led war for the third week now, despite the overwhelming odds against it? What are the reasons and ramifications for Iraq's missile attacks on Tel Aviv and Haifa for the first time, in Israel's history, and President Saddam Hussein's insistence that the Palestinian problem be solved once and for all?

Volumes can of course be written on answers to these questions, but one of the more important factors that led the Iraqi leadership to take these strong positions and actions can be found in the school of thought it was brought up to believe in: the Ba'ath ideology.

An insightful look at the Ba'ath Party and its ideology might be of some help in any attempt to understand the Iraqi leadership's thinking and the forces behind the decisions and actions on Kuwait and the whole region.

The word "Ba'ath" means re-surrection, rebirth or renaissance. The founding fathers of the Arab Ba'ath Party, namely Michel Aflaq and Salah Bitar, were influenced by the Western civilisation and nationalism when they were students in Paris. Back home, the Arab countries were influenced by two major trends: Islam and communism. Aflaq and Bitar wanted to create a new Arab civilisation, a new Arab identity, and they thought that the best solution was an Arab nationalist one.

The cause for the two thinkers who were joined by Muncef Razzaz was to unite the Arab World in order to strengthen the region and be independent of colonialism.

Aflaq believed that since the fourteenth century, the Arab World was in a state of coma or death and needed to be resurrected. He thought the Arab nation was a potentially mighty power and had a great civilisation, but that it faced a big problem: it was divided.

The Ba'ath was greatly influenced by Arab nationalist leader Sati' Husari, who had called for Arab unity at any cost. Aflaq added a social dimension to this: that this Arab unity was in the interest of the poor, the working class, the farmers and the intellectual bourgeoisie.

Saddam Hussein had repeatedly accused the oil-rich Gulf states of being responsible for the unfair distribution of Arab wealth. He reiterated over and over again that there were Arabs in Sudan, for example, who were starving; that many Arab countries had huge foreign debts and that the oil-rich states were obliged to see that the rest of the Arabs were not suffering financially. In other words, it was always natural for Iraq, with its Ba'athist leadership, to demand a fair distribution of wealth among the Arabs, and it did.

The ideology's influence on Iraq shows today that the major aims of the Ba'ath Party became to unite the Arab World, cancel all forms of colonialism, which created the class struggle and hegemony, and liberate Palestine.

The slogan of the party, founded in 1947 is: unity, freedom, socialism; one Arab nation with an immortal message. Aflaq had apparently seen the immortal message as the Islamic and historic dimension of Ba'ath.

The party thought that Arab unity was the only way to liberate Palestine and that the liberation of Palestine would unite the Arabs.

In his three-volume collection "The Complete Political and Philosophical Works," the late Ba'athist leader Muncef Razzaz wrote: "Ba'ath aims at the destruction of colonialism in Arab land and thus the destruction of colonialism everywhere ... Palestine must be liberated, but without a struggle, there will be no liberation ... to confront Israel we must confront imperialism, which both brought Israel into this region and sustained it. Therefore, to liberate Palestine we must always consider



Michel Aflaq



Saddam Hussein

that we will fight Zionism as well as imperialism at the same time."

There is no doubt that Saddam has been greatly influenced by the Ba'ath school, something that many Ba'athists here say.

Hardcore Ba'athists always wanted to expand their influence beyond their borders, which were anyway created by the colonialists, as Saddam did with Kuwait by annexing it, and as Syria's Hafez Assad indirectly did with Lebanon.

Unlike what many in the West claim — that Saddam did not invade Kuwait to liberate Palestine — people who understand the influence of Ba'ath on the Iraqi leadership would say that the president had both Arab unity and Palestine in the back of his mind when he took over Kuwait.

He might have thought that his project in taking Kuwait would make Iraq the strongest and richest state with the strongest Arab military power that would enable him to create a true strategic power balance with Israel and be able to confront the Zionist state, independently and without having to confront the Western powers.

The Iraqi leadership continues to blame Arab leaders, particularly in the oil-rich Gulf states, whom it says were appointed by the colonialist European empires earlier in the century, for obstructing indigenous national industrial development. Iraq, in effect, also blames these leaders for obstructing serious efforts to solve the Palestinian problem peacefully, but in a just and dignified manner where the Palestinians and Arabs are not the losers in the end. In other words, the Arabs could achieve what they wanted through strength and independence from imperial powers.

Although they had resigned from the party because they believed that democracy was one of the essential means to confront colonialism, they now say that since the beginning of the Gulf crisis and especially during this war, Saddam has been given by those whom he persecuted.

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Learning from historic mistakes, a pan-Arab nationalist

**Although Aflaq worried about Saddam's ruthless behaviour and objected to it, Aflaq put his last bet on Saddam as being the student most likely to be a good leader and absorb his principles. Aflaq looked at other Arab leaders and saw that Saddam had the faith of one day building a powerful state — not as a means by itself — but to unite the Arabs and liberate Palestine.**

As Razzaz wrote: "(Ba'ath) looks to achieving peace ... but not artificial peace based on superficial agreements."

Farmer Jordanian Ba'athists say that the slogans of Ba'ath — pan-Arab nationalism, freedom, unity, independence — are clearly ingrained in both Saddam's mind and that of the Iraqi people.

The principles of the Ba'ath Party taught them to do what they are doing now by fighting against colonialism and sacrificing their lives for Palestine, which is the central cause for the Arabs. Many supporters of Iraq had expected a different position from Syria, where Ba'ath was created, because they also grew up with the same principles.

The Ba'athists first took power in Iraq in Feb. 1963 and in Syria nine months later. The Ba'athist leadership in Iraq lasted only eight months when it was overthrown only to retake power in 1968 under the leadership of Ahmad Hassan al Baker, who remained president until he fell ill and handed over the

The Iraqi president was also quoted as telling the Ba'athist leadership in 1978: "give me ten years and I will show you that I will not let you down and will not betray our pan-Arab nationalist aspirations that we have learned from the Ba'ath Party. I will continue to be an Arab nationalist, but now I will concentrate on Iraq for the future of pan-Arabism."

Saddam lived up to his word. He has built a strong state, is now confronting the U.S. and other Western powers and the oil-rich Gulf states, who in his view worked against Arab nationalist interests, and hit Israel with the Iraqi-developed Al Hussein missiles. After 43 years of suffering from Western hegemony and the repeated humiliation of being defeated by Israel, Iraq is now perceived as the symbol and power with which Arabs can confront imperialism and Zionism. This is simply why millions of Arabs and Muslims are fully supportive of Iraq in this battle; they feel it is also a fight for their future.

Although many Ba'athists would now say that in practicality, Ba'athism does not exist any longer because it became regional and tribal rather than pan-Arab, the influences of this school have been deeply engraved in the Iraqi thinking. And many say that Saddam and Iraq are not fighting this war in the name of Ba'ath. Rather, the war is seen as an Arab-Muslim battle against Western imperialism, colonialism and hegemony.

Saddam was greatly influenced by Aflaq, who remained in Iraq until his death in 1989. Aflaq concentrated on the Islamic, historic and heroic dimensions of fighting colonialism. In his writings, Aflaq wrote about having to fight a long, fierce and challenging war in order to create new human beings in the Arab World.

In 1979, Saddam took a bards line and cracked down on anyone who got in the way of his plans of building strong institutions as fast as possible; democracy and human rights were not a priority on his list.

There are many former Ba'athists in Jordan who left the party in '79 because it lacked democracy and they now say that since the beginning of the Gulf crisis and especially during this war, Saddam has been given by those whom he persecuted.

Although they had resigned from the party because they believed that democracy was one of the essential means to confront colonialism, they now say that since the beginning of the Gulf crisis and especially during this war, Saddam has been given by those whom he persecuted.

In its eight-year war with Iran, Iraq was able to not only build a stronger and determined people but it was the right opportunity to build its strong infrastructure and industrial capability. The war was apparently one of the major factors that had Saddam persisted in his position of keeping Kuwait without having to bow down to the Western and superpower pressure. For Saddam, it was a challenge that had to be faced to prove the new Arab strength, represented by Iraq, once and for all, and set a model for the Arabs to follow.

Saddam was influenced by the historic Islamic heroes that Aflaq constantly referred to in his writings. For the Iraqi president, to fight and die a hero for a just cause for the people and nation is probably worth a million times more than just being a regular president for another 20 years.

People who know Saddam well say the Iraqi president might like to identify himself with Prophet Mohammad's maternal grandson, Al Hussein Ibn Ali. This man only had an army of 70 in a battle in Karbala in Iraq and fought against a huge army where he fell. But he is remembered as a hero until today, particularly by the Shi'ites who flog themselves every year in regret for betraying and leading him to his death instead of fighting alongside him.

It is noteworthy that Saddam referred to Hussein Ibn Ali in his latest interview with CNN's Peter Arnett when the president said that the Iraqi-developed Scud missiles were named after that Arab figure Al Hussein.

Western analysts are so sensitive about the name of these missiles. The name Al Hussein reminds them that it was our ancestor who fought injustice and inequity with just 70 men, so how can we, with 18 million people, not fight injustice? This adds to their sensitivity that 18 million Iraqis will certainly be able to fight independently until the right (cause) defeats the wrong," Saddam said.

Although Aflaq worried about Saddam's ruthless behaviour and objected to it, Aflaq put his last bet on Saddam as being the student most likely to be a good leader and to absorb his principles. Aflaq looked at other Arab leaders and saw that none but Saddam had the faith of one day building a powerful state — not as a means by itself — but to unite the Arabs and liberate Palestine.

Saddam's initiative to concentrate his efforts inside Iraq was not traditional thinking ... "Nasser's mistake was that he expanded his region before he strengthened his internal front and the pan-Arab nationalist thinking among the people and before building strong institutions inside Egypt."

Saddam was quoted as previously saying to his comrades: "Nasser's mistake was that he expanded his region before he strengthened his internal front and the pan-Arab nationalist thinking among the people and before building strong institutions inside Egypt."

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## Weekly Political Pulse

# An international order of disorder

By Dr. Walid Sadi

THE "new international order" was heralded with much fanfare by U.S. President George Bush on the eve of the U.S.-led coalition's attack on Iraq and Kuwait. There is now a growing fear that the so-called new international order is nothing but an international disorder. No matter how the Iraqi situation is going to finish, it is bound to trigger regional and international ripples that spell disorder bordering on chaos in the international scene. One has got to be naive not to recognise that the post Gulf war era will be marked with increasing insecurity and instability first in the Gulf and Middle East regions and second across the entire world. Inter-Arab relations will be the first to suffer from the Gulf war and hitherto traditional or orthodox inter-Arab relations are projected now to be replaced with inter-Arab rivalry of the first order. The weakening of Iraq, not to mention its destruction, will create a vacuum that will be filled by either Iran or Syria. Most likely Iran will become the dominant Gulf power and in due course will pose a continuing threat to Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arab Gulf states. In the Middle East theatre, Syria will become a regional power alongside Israel.

The falacy of the much acclaimed new international order stems from the fact that it is simply an euphemism for Western hegemony, not only in the Middle East and the Gulf region, but everywhere in the world. Lacking a truly international flavour or a broad base representing the various culture and political houses in the world, the new international order becomes an exercise of monopolistic power by a distinct block of Western power. The U.N. system, when it was first conceived was perceived as a pluralistic infrastructure where the system of checks and balances will dominate and control the decision-making. What the world has now is anything but a pluralistic international security structure. The U.N. Security Council has become just a tool in the hands of Washington, something that was never imagined to be possible when the fathers of the U.N. organisation drafted its charter and distributed powers rather equally among the various centres of international power.

Had Moscow and its allies evolved positively and democratically, but stayed powerful and independent, the international situation would have been different. Instead, the Soviet Union, the main counter-balancing force to Washington, just crumbled in the process of democratising itself and at the end abdicated power and clout over the international and regional events and conflicts. Obviously the first to taste the better medicine was Moscow itself which found itself all of a sudden out on a limb unable to cope with its domestic affairs rather equally among the various centres of international power.

To rectify this new alarming situation, the Soviet Union and China should regroup concurrently with their effort to become more democratic and free societies. That means they should go at the process of modernisation rather slower to assure their continued strength and influence. The other centres of power in the world must likewise regroup on new basis before they become totally enslaved under the new heading of a new international order. Within the U.N. system, the many nations of the world should foresee the U.N. Security Council as it is presently constituted in favour of the General Assembly organ. At least there, the smaller countries of the world would have a better chance to escape from the tentacles of the so-called new international order imposed on them from above. And through the General Assembly, the nations of the world should strive to change the composition of the Security Council. India, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, Algeria, Nigeria and other states should also become permanent features of the Council. With a wider representation of the nations of the world in the Security Council,

## Features

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### Mesopotamia, cauldron of war for thousands of years

By Ed Blanche  
The Associated Press

NECOSIA, Cyprus — Mesopotamia, the fertile region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers that became the heart of modern Iraq, has been a battleground for more than 5,000 years.

One empire replaced another as the fabled "land between the rivers" was gripped for centuries in a seemingly endless cycle of conquest and rebellion.

The fate of civilisations turned on the high-tech weapons of their day: the chariot, bronze ax, the bow and arrow and iron-bladed spear. Now, Iraq battles sophisticated missiles and supersonic jets carrying laser-guided "smart" bombs.

Mesopotamia was the proving ground for arms and tactics that dominated warfare for hundreds of years. Saddam's role models are its mighty kings, whose victories he invokes in claiming their mantle.

The Sumerians, a now-semitic race, founded a chain of city-states around 3,500 B.C. in what is now southern Iraq and united about 1,000 years later to become the first regional superpower.

They introduced bronze weapons and were using chariots long before the Egyptians perfected them as the fast-moving ancient equivalent of modern armour.

Sumerian chariots were cumbersome, four-wheeled vehicles drawn by four asses. Their top speed probably was about 24 kilometres an hour and, since no one had invented a swiveling front axle, they could turn only in very wide arcs.

Chariots were used primarily to crunch through columns of infantry, carrying spearmen who stabbed holes in enemy ranks.

The Sumerians pioneered the phalanx, a tight column of infantry in goat-hair kilts who advanced, according to ancient carvings, in six files of 11 men each.

In about 2,350 B.C., the Sumerians met their match in an enemy that had developed a new long-range weapon — the bow and arrow, the equivalent in its day of "stand-off" missiles that warplanes launch miles from their targets.

Archers fighting for the Akkadians, whose empire centred on the city of Akkad somewhere north of present-day Baghdad, neutralised the Sumerian army's supremacy.

Babylon came to dominate the region in the 18th century B.C. King Hammurabi conquered most of Mesopotamia with an army of 50,000 men, a huge force for the time. It included Chaldeans from the desert and Elamites from that is now Khuzestan, Iran's oil-rich southwestern province.

Citizen soldiers made up most armies in those days, but like Saddam with his elite Republican Guard, Hammurabi had a crack force of about 1,000 royal guards.

His army had cavalry, chariots and infantry. The cavalrymen, renowned as mounted archers, were the most effective.

For much of their ascendancy, the Babylonians were threatened by the Assyrians from the north, whose soldiers wore heavy armour.

In 812 B.C., the Assyrians triumphed at Dur-Papsukal. Contemporary accounts said the Babylonians, Chaldeans and Elamites lost 13,000 killed and 3,000 captures.

The Assyrians introduced iron weapons and heavy iron armour that was far more effective than the padded hides most soldiers used for protection. The empire was extended to the Mediterranean.

Shalmaneser III, with 120,000 men, defeated the Hittites in the battle of Qarqar in 853. The Assyrians fielded 1,100 chariots and 11,000 cavalrymen against the Hittites' 700 chariots and 700 cavalry in a fast-moving fore-runner of today's tank battles.

Not until the battle of Khalkhe in 690 B.C. did the Assyrians finally crush the Babylonians. The victors claimed their enemies lost 150,000 killed.

Assyrian power, centred on Nineveh in what is now northern Iraq, ruled supreme until the resurgent Babylonians and their allies, the medes of what is now Iran, sacked Nineveh in 612 B.C.

Babylon flourished again under King Nebuchadnezzar and his armies destroyed Jerusalem. That empire lasted until the Persians sacked Babylon in the next century.

Eventually, the Assyrians were virtually wiped out. So fierce was the revenge of those they had brutally subjugated that most traces of the Assyrian civilisation were destroyed.

Alexander that Great and his Macedonians sacked Babylon in 331 B.C., then went to India, forming a great empire stretching from Libya to the Punjab.

They returned to Babylon, planning to invade Arabia, but died of Malaria in 323 B.C., at age 32. His empire collapsed, torn apart by feuding generals.

After Alexander, the Romans and the Byzantines tried to move in to Mesopotamia, but were held at bay by the Sassanids.

In 637, the Arabs triumphed, fired by the new religion of Islam. They were followed by Tamerlane and his Mongols, the Ottoman Turks, and finally the British. Now, once again, the land is swept by war.

### The not so secret 'secret killers'

By Nicholas Doughty  
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Moving silently, often by night, they are among the best-kept secrets of the Gulf war.

Known as "special forces," the small American and British elite units are trained to kill with their bare hands, a knife or the latest sniper's rifle.

Their reputation for sabotage and striking deep behind enemy lines is legendary. They can dive underwater and parachute towards their targets. Stealth is the watchword for these real-life Rambo.

"They will take risks others won't, they're trained to a higher standard than anyone else and they are specialists in the precise application of military force to maximum effect," said one defence source with knowledge of their operations.

Getting military authorities to talk publicly about the activities of units like Britain's Special Air Service (SAS) and the U.S. cavalry "seals" in the Gulf war is virtually impossible, although it is known they have been deployed in the region.

Another source familiar with their operations said they would play a key role, slipping behind Iraqi lines to knock out command centres or missile sites, kill enemy commanders or gather intelligence.

The source said the reported defection of six Iraqi helicopters recently, subsequently denied by the Pentagon and Saudi authorities, could have been linked to a special forces raid to capture a surface-to-air missile from Kuwait.

Four days before war broke out, Britain's Sunday Times newspaper said a helicopter raid by American and British special forces had netted a missile and prisoner.

"There may well have been helicopters coming over the border into Saudi Arabia with enemy prisoners," said the source. "Someone may have jumped to conclusions that they were Iraqi choppers. They may well have been special forces coming back."

"Secret armies" have played an important role in fighting guerrilla organisations or in freeing hostages. Britain's SAS is locked in an often bloody undercover war with the Irish Republican Army which is trying to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Special forces are in demand in wartime, when they reach their targets in rubber dinghies, low-flying helicopters or through paratrooper drops.

They try to sow fear and panic by disrupting operations in areas the enemy thinks safe.

Apart from the SAS, Britain has also sent elements of the Special Boat Squadron (SBS), a unit drawn from the ranks of the Royal Marines, to the Gulf. U.S. special forces in the region include Delta Force, the Green Berets and the Navy SEALs.

Although the organisation, training and equipment of these units vary, they all have much in common — not least that their members are tougher and fitter than most other men under arms.

Selection courses lasting weeks or months test candidates to the

limit of their physical and mental endurance. Failure rates of between 50 and 80 per cent are common for all special forces' applicants, who are already successful professional soldiers.

Assault courses guerilla forced marches carrying heavy equipment are followed by searching psychological examinations.

The successful few have to learn a wide variety of dangerous or highly complex techniques. These usually include:

— Making a parachute landing just 160 metres above the ground

— Diving with special oxygen tanks that leave no tell-tale trail of bubbles on the surface

— Disabling or killing an opponent silently, with no weapons

— Perfecting special language skills for certain areas of the world. At least some of the special forces operating in the Gulf will have members who speak Arabic

— Using and maintaining specialised weapons and communications equipment, some involving satellite technology.

— Using explosives and other sabotage equipment. These even include small nuclear weapons, known as "backpack nukes."

— How to survive in enemy territory, often for days or weeks at a time. Survival skills cover any terrain from thick jungle to arctic wastes and include bizarre techniques like how to cook and eat ants, or make soap from wood ash and fat.

Unit sizes vary. Members of special teams must be skilled improvisers and able to operate independently.

"Inmate intelligence, physical strength, agility, stamina and standard training are not enough," wrote John Collins, U.S. author of a recent book on special forces.

Much of the formal relationship between ranks disappears in these units, whose members learn to rely on each other totally for survival.

The weapons they carry depend on their missions, but usually they must be small and light. Much favoured is the "small Heckler and Koch" sub-machinegun. Snipers' rifles carry the latest in laser and night-sighting equipment.

Some of the more exotic equipment includes mini-submarines, poisons that make death look natural and have no known antidotes, radios that self-destruct and armour-piercing ammunition for ordinary handguns.

Britain's SAS — father of all modern special forces — was set up in 1941 to strike deep behind German lines in the North African desert.

One of its most-decorated members, General Sir Peter de la Billière, is now commanding British forces in the Gulf.

Its members usually work in teams of four. The last known SAS military operation took place during the 1982 Falklands war, when a unit slipped onto an island at night and destroyed 11 Argentine aircraft parked on a runway.

U.S. special forces, used in the Vietnam war, were reorganised following the disastrous 1980 attempt to rescue hostages held in Iran by helicopter.

### Engineers, vipers and dustbins hold key to tough Iraqi defences !!

By Nicholas Doughty  
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Watch out for "giant vipers" and "flying dustbins" — they may soon be Gulf war terms as familiar as the Patriot and Scud missiles streaking through the night sky.

The oddly-named devices are expected to play a major role as U.S.-led forces try to push Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

Which is where the giant vipers and the flying dustbins come in.

The first of these is a coiled tube filled with explosives, used for clearing a path through minefields. Launched from a truck by rocket, it looks like a snake with a large head as it uncoils — hence the name.

As it lands on the minefield, it detonates, exploding all mines for about one yard (metre) on either side of the tube.

The engineers must brave huge sandbanks, ditches filled with burning oil, minefields, barbed wire and bunkers to clear a path — probably under fire all the time.

"It is very much the sharp end of the fighting," said one officer with more than 30 years of service

in Britain's Royal Engineers. "Casualty rates are high among engineers."

The obstacles are designed to slow the allied advance and channel their forces into "killing zones" where Iraqi troops and guns can concentrate their fire.

Which is where the giant vipers and the flying dustbins come in.

The second of these is a large high-explosive charge, hurled by the 165mm demolition gun mounted on one type of engineering vehicle. It can be used to clear a hole in barbed wire, blast an enemy bunker or flatten a building.

Some of the engineers' work can be done from the relative safety of armoured vehicles, most of them adapted from the hulls of main battle tanks.

These can be fitted with "dozer blades" to clear rubble or obstacles, or with a flail or plough system that will detonate mines in their path.

Some can carry bundles of wood or plastic that are dropped into ditches and allow other vehicles to cross. Still others carry folding bridges on top, that can be stretched across wider gaps in a matter of minutes.

They are fully-tracked tractors that can "swim" across rivers and be used for excavation work or as fork-lift trucks.

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## Sabatini beats Navratilova to win Pan-Pacific indoor title

TOKYO (AP) — Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini defeated Martina Navratilova in full sets Sunday and won the Pan Pacific Open Tennis Tournament.

Sabatini, seeded fifth, overcame erratic serving in the first set to overpower third-seeded Navratilova 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

In the doubles finals, Elizabeth Smylie of Australia and Kathy Jordan of the United States came behind to defeat Americans Mary Jo Fernandez and Robin White 1-6, 6-0, 6-3.

"It's a wonderful feeling," said Sabatini, who had defeated Steffi Graf, the world's top-ranked female player, in the quarterfinals.

"I've been playing well here all week," she said.

Still, the Argentinian admitted her Sunday performance had its uneven spots.

"I wasn't serving well, so I didn't have a lot of confidence there. But I think my return today was excellent and my passing shots were very good," she said.

Navratilova, coming back from a three-month blank after having surgery on both knees, breezed through the first five games of the match as Sabatini struggled to adjust her serve.

But Sabatini, who had seven double faults to none for Navratilova, began the second set with an ace and went on to win the next three games.

Though Navratilova broke Sabatini's serve in the third set's first game, the 34-year-old veteran allowed her own service to be broken in the sixth and again in the eighth, which she had led 4-0.

"She returned extremely well," Navratilova said. "But my serve doesn't have the pace or spin on it that it used to have."

## Austrian retains title at World Skiing Championships

SAALBACH-HINTERGLEMM, Austria (AP) — Rudolf Nierlich of Austria successfully defended his world title in the men's giant slalom Sunday as first-run leader Alberto Tomba fell near the top of the course.

Urs Kaelin of Switzerland won the medal and Johan Wallner of Sweden took the bronze in the final event of the two-week Alpine Skiing Championships.

However, an official protest was filed against Nierlich by several teams because of an apparent problem with his racing suit. A small seal that is required on all racers' overalls was missing from Nierlich's outfit at the end of the first run.

The Italian and other teams protested, seeking the Austrian's disqualification, but officials allowed Nierlich to run in the second heat.

Officials of the International Ski Federation (FIS) were meeting Sunday afternoon to rule on the protest, but the Italians said they did not expect Nierlich to be disqualified. The Italians said Nierlich may have lost the seal during the first run.

The seal is used to prove that each racer's suit has been approved by FIS.

"I must have lost it during the race," Nierlich said.

But Tomba, whose chances for his first world title ended when he

Navratilova had won all but three of her previous 16 matches against Sabatini, who is ranked fourth in the world.

"I came tantalizingly close to winning the match, and couldn't quite pull it off," she said. "But I just came back from an operation so I wouldn't make any conclusions from this tournament."

Sabatini takes home \$70,000 for the win.

Navratilova praised her younger opponent. "She played better and better in the second set. I raised my game in the final set but she had good shots and winners when she needed it," she said.

### Sviglerova wins Auckland Classic

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Eva Sviglerova outlasted Andrea Strnadova in a three-set final Sunday to win the \$10,000 Nutri-Metics Classic Tennis Tournament.

Sviglerova, ranked 89th in the world, won the all-Czechoslovak final 6-2, 6-6, 6-1. She had beaten no. 2 seeded Argentine Mercedes Paz in the semifinals.

Strnadova, 18, a two-time junior Wimbledon champion ranked 125th in the world, had not dropped a set going in to the final but Sviglerova played steadier tennis.

The tide was the first for Sviglerova, 19, in her three-year professional career.

She earned \$18,000 for her victory, while Strnadova collected \$8,500.

Sviglerova improved her record against Strnadova to 3-2.

Both players will also compete in the \$100,000 Fernleaf Classic, which begins Monday in Wellington. Soviet player Leila Meshki is the top seed for that event.



Gabriela Sabatini is poised for service action on her way to victory

## Japanese challenger knocks out Argentine boxing champ

MAGOYA, Japan (AP) — Japanese challenger Kiyoshi Hatanaka stopped Pedro Decima of Argentina in the eighth round Sunday and took away his World Boxing Council (WBC) super bantamweight title.

Referee Rupe Garcia of Mexico stopped the fight at the end of the eighth round after Hatanaka floored Decima with a left hook for the sixth knockdown in the scheduled 12-round bout at Nagoya Exhibition Hall.

Decima started strongly, knocking down Hatanaka with a left and right combination 2-4-3 into the first round.

The 23-year-old Hatanaka, however, gained his rhythm and the two exchanged blows fiercely.

Hatanaka downed Decima 1-17 into the fourth round with a right straight and then floored the champion three more times in the same round — with a left hook, a right straight and

another left hook.

The Japanese also knocked a groggy Decima down in the seventh.

It was the 26-year-old Decima's first attempted defense of the title he took from Paul Banks of the United States by a knockout last Nov. 5.

Hatanaka, one of Japan's two world champions, improved his record to 22 victories, including 15 by knockout, against one loss and one draw, while Decima dropped to 26-3 with 18 knockouts.

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## Chelsea shatters Arsenal's unbeaten league record

LONDON (R) — Arsenal's George Graham never expected his team to remain unbeaten for 23 league matches, so when they lost Saturday he could still manage a smile.

"All good things have to end.

We have had our setbacks before

and we will bounce back again," he said after the English League leaders lost 2-1 to Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

A win would have sent Arsenal

four points clear, albeit briefly,

but they still stayed top of the

table, one point ahead of champions Liverpool who now have

two games in hand.

Crystal Palace are third, three

points off the pace.

"If someone had told me be-

fore the season started that our

first league defeat would be in

February, then I would have said

"thank you very much," the

Arsenal manager smiled.

But he was nonetheless dis-

appointed that it should be

fellow-Londoners Chelsea who

had triumphed where other, pos-

ibly more talented or deserving,

first division sides had failed.

Manchester United are the

only other team to have beaten

Arsenal this season, thrashing

them 6-2 in a League Cup tie,

but United are on song whereas

Chelsea have been uneven of

late.

"There have been other match-

es ... when we were under the

cosh and were lucky to survive

but today we could have got

something," Graham said, while

making no excuses — despite two

lively F.A. Cup matches in four

days against Leeds.

But Chelsea manager Bobby

Campbell, delighted to see his

club wiping out the memory of

their 4-1 defeat at Highbury last

September, had only one name

on his lips afterwards.

Graham Stuart, a 20-year-old

former trainee and an ex-alumnus

of the Football Association

school of excellence, was the star

after scoring in his debut as a

striker. His 67th minute goal

broke the deadlock and sent

Chelsea on their way.

Before Saturday, Stuart had

played only as a midfielder but,

and they still stayed top of the

table, one point ahead of champions

Liverpool who now have

two games in hand.

United scored four goals in the

first 29 minutes to beat Southampton

4-1 and, with Derby losing 3-2 at

Aston Villa, moved off the bottom of the table for the first time this season.

In Scotland, leaders Rangers

had their match at St Johnstone

postponed, while second-placed

Aberdeen closed the gap to five

points with a 5-0 thrashing at

home against Hearts.

Hearts were a goal down in the

first minute and suffered another

blow three minutes later when

the Scotland international striker

John Robertson went off with a

bad cut on his forehead which needed

six stitches.

for Arsenal in the final seconds.

Crystal Palace, knocked out of the F.A. Cup by Nottingham Forest Monday, returned to the club for their fourth meeting in three weeks and exacted their revenge with a 1-0 win.

But it was still a close run match, with defender Eric Young only heading in the goal with four minutes remaining.

Meanwhile, at the bottom of the division, a flurry of goals handed Sheffield United a result that even their most ardent fans would previously have considered improbable.

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six stitches.

## Barcelona battles to draw in mudbath at Valencia

VALENCIA (R) — Spanish league leaders Barcelona battled to a 2-2 draw away to Valencia in a match played in torrential rain on a pitch where water sprayed freely at every step.

The appalling conditions robbed the match of skill but not of excitement as Valencia twice took the lead only for Barcelona to peg them back each time.

With players sliding in all directions and the ball stopping dead unless lifted well off the ground, Barcelona

## Gulf war empties Rome of tourists

ROME (R) — The taxis tell the story.

In a city where finding one is often a combination of strategy and luck, they now languish empty in yellow clusters at the front of hotels, restaurants and monuments.

"I can't remember a time this bad in the 23 years I've been driving a taxi," said Goffredo Parbuoni as he waited in vain with four other colleagues for a passenger just a few steps from the Trevi Fountain, usually a tourist magnet.

"At night, there's as if there's a curfew. There's hardly anyone in the hotels and everybody's afraid of going out."

The Gulf war, combined with the off season, has virtually emptied Rome of tourists. But Romans are in no mood to take advantage of the new-found emptiness.

Fearing a terrorist attack in reprisal for Italy's role in the anti-Iraq alliance, Romans are staying close to home.

Throughout the city, restaurants, shops, cinemas and discotheques are reporting one of their worst seasons ever.

Hotel occupancy rates are off by as much as 50 per cent.

A special parking lane for tourist coaches near the Roman Forum and the Colosseum was empty last week.

Many school carnival season parties and outings to museums have been cancelled. Police guard foreign schools and, at some, children have been told not to wear uniforms.

"People feel gloomy and afraid about what is going on and this has affected their way of life," said Maria Ferrari, a Rome office worker.

"We Italians have lived through war and we have lived through terrorism. We know both and that is perhaps why the mood of the city is so grim," she said.

Many Romans like her have rented more videos to watch at home so their children won't have to go to the movies. At smart clubs, receptions have been can-

celled. "People are just afraid of congregating," said the head waiter at one of them.

In the 1970s and 1980s Italy was the scene of numerous attacks by Italian and Middle Eastern guerrillas.

Italians and foreigners are still haunted by the Dec. 27, 1985 Palestinian attack at Rome airport which killed 16 people.

Since the Gulf war erupted on Jan. 17, Italian police and military have been on alert for guerrilla activity. High-profile security is visible throughout the capital.

Near the Spanish steps a grey armoured personnel vehicle and policemen with machine-guns protect the American Express office.

Their equally well-armed colleagues patrol the Via Veneto area where the U.S. embassy and major airline offices are located. Police cars are parked in front of hotels.

"Apart from those who work here, no one is coming to the centre to shop during the day and the place is dead after 8 p.m. No one is coming in to eat," said Corrado Lunerti, who runs a woman's boutique on the Chic Via Fratina.

He said his business was off by 70 per cent since the start of the war, despite the traditional January sales period.

The Italian Travel Agents' Federation has approached the government for help, saying massive layoffs are inevitable if the drop in bookings continues.

If convicted, Recanati would be blocked from regaining control of IDB after a 1986 commission of inquiry. But his family still owns nearly 13 per cent of the group, which has assets worth \$15 billion.

"The Americans have virtually disappeared from Rome and the Europeans are not far behind. There are only a few Japanese left," said an official of the National Hoteliers Association.

Things are no better at other favourite tourist haunts.

In Venice, where fears of a guerrilla attack led the town council to cancel this year's carnival, the first thing travellers see on landing at the airport is a machinegun post protected by sandbags.

## De Klerk seeks economic growth to match reform

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa is already reaping economic rewards for its political reforms of the past year, President F.W. de Klerk has said.

"We have succeeded in breaking out of the dead end of isolation," he noted.

The anti-South African industry is facing insolvency. Sanctions are withering away. Of special importance has been our new access, in eastern Europe and elsewhere, to markets long closed to our exports as well as our readmission to capital markets in

western Europe," he said.

De Klerk urged businessmen and workers to cooperate in economic restructuring to improve the lot of blacks.

"Economic growth and constitutional reform have to be mutually reinforcing. There is room for debate on economic structures, but not on the necessity for effective macro-economic management," he said.

He cautioned that new sources of finance had to be developed to meet the social bills of reform.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, February 3, 1991	
Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	664.0 668.0
Pound Sterling	1311.4 1319.3
Danishmark	452.2 454.9
Swiss franc	530.3 533.5
French franc	132.9 133.7
Japanese yen (for 100)	304.6 307.6
Dutch guilder	401.5 403.9
Swedish crown	120.7 121.4
Italian lira (for 100)	60.1 60.5
Belgian franc (for 10)	220.2 221.5

## Israel stops sale of third largest bank

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel suspended talks about the sale of its third largest bank Saturday, two days after the central bank urged the government not to sell it to its ousted owner who faces trial in a shares scandal.

The treasury said Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai ordered an indefinite postponement of negotiations with investors headed by Raphael Recanati for the state-owned IDB Bankholding Corp.

The only other bidder for IDB was disqualified.

Bank of Israel Governor Michael Bruno said Thursday it was not "suitable" to let Recanati repurchase IDB, a banking group built around Israel Discount Bank.

The central bank must approve any bank sale.

Recanati and 16 other senior Israeli bankers were indicted last month for fraud. They are accused of manipulating their own bank share prices in the early 1980s, causing them to rise above their value.

Share prices collapsed in 1983, forcing the government to step in and buy them for more than \$3.5 billion.

Recanati was stripped of control of IDB after a 1986 commission of inquiry. But his family still owns nearly 13 per cent of the group, which has assets worth \$15 billion.

If convicted, Recanati would be blocked from regaining control of IDB because Israeli law bans anyone convicted of related felonies from owning more than 10 per cent in any bank.

IDB is the first of four Israeli banks due for sale in a privatisation programme to finance a mass influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants and reduce foreign debt.

Things are no better at other favourite tourist haunts.

In Venice, where fears of a guerrilla attack led the town council to cancel this year's carnival, the first thing travellers see on landing at the airport is a machinegun post protected by sandbags.

## National Bank of Bahrain raises profit by 12 per cent

BAHRAIN (R) — National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) is Bahrain's largest commercial bank, said Sunday its net profit in 1990 rose to nine million dinars (\$24 million) from \$1 million dinars (\$21 million) the previous year.

Operating income before provisions for bad debts fell slightly to 13.9 million dinars (\$36.9 million) last year from 14 million dinars (\$37 million) in 1989, the bank said in a statement.

Total assets dropped sharply to 605.8 million dinars (\$1.6 billion) at the end of 1990 from 660.6 million (\$1.75 billion) at the end of 1989.

Customer deposits fell to 446 million dinars (\$1.183 billion) from 466 million dinars (\$1.34 billion).

NBB Chairman Ahmad Ali Kanoo said the fall in the customers' deposits was marginal when compared with the capital flight from the Gulf after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August.

At a financing meeting in November, Murdoch was quoted

## Iran approves \$307b budget

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian legislators have approved a budget 63 per cent higher than the current planned level based on about \$20 billion of oil revenue and \$4.8 billion of foreign credit for the year starting March 21.

Iranian radio said the bill, setting the general budget at 20.08 trillion riyals — equivalent to \$307 billion at the official rate of 65.5 riyals per dollar — became law after receiving final approval by the overseeing Guardian Council.

The overall figure is 63 per cent higher than the current year's planned level but some of the increase is due to a government decision last month to sell foreign exchange to businessmen at rates of up to 20 times the official parity.

The general budget is composed of two parts: About 60 per cent of it is the budget of state-owned companies which the government says will gradually be sold off, and the rest is the government budget.

Parliament excluded non-oil exports, which are mostly from the private sector and have been running at about a billion dollars in recent years, from the government budget.

The budget bill, in line with the five-year plan, allows the use of \$4.8 billion of foreign credit tied to a few dozen specific projects including textiles, edible oils and sugar, fibreglass and concrete pipes and motor oil additives.

The credits should be repaid by March 1995.

The government will spend \$2.7 billion on importing wheat, meat, rice, tea, fodder and chemical fertilisers, slightly more than the current year's projected

target. They said the oil revenue target, which the government says is based on a price \$18.4 a barrel, cannot be met in the current oil market, which is tied to the Gulf war.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Iran planned to increase its oil output by 410,000 barrels per day (b/d) over the next year, enabling it to have 2.43 million b/d by export compared for 1.98 million b/d in the current year.

"In ideal conditions maybe we will earn \$16 billion from selling oil," said deputy Hossein Hosseini.

## News Corporation escapes insolvency

SYDNEY (R) — Media baron Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation has announced a long-awaited agreement with its bankers to reschedule \$7.6 billion of debt.

News Corporation, which last month said it faced insolvency if the debt package was not completed, has also secured a fresh cash injection of \$600 million.

These arrangements represent a major strengthening of the company's financial condition," News Corporation chief executive Murdoch said in a statement.

Under the terms of the deal, News Corporation has been given one year to cut its debt by \$800 million and by a further \$400 million every six months afterwards.

"Reductions will be sourced from a mixture of asset sales, equity and earnings," the company said.

At a financing meeting in November, Murdoch was quoted

as saying: "We're in the media business, what we don't need we don't have to keep."

Analysts believe News Corporation has a collection of sacred assets, including the Australian newspaper, the British group's newspapers, HarperCollins Publishing, Twentieth Century Fox Films, Fox Television and the merged satellite television network B-Sky B.

Everything else is probably for sale at a price.

"Heavy capital expenditure in all our newspaper and expansion of our television and film activities last year coincided with an extreme tightening of the credit markets, causing a liquidity crunch," said Murdoch, whose family interest control 43 per cent of News Corporation.

"We appreciate the commitment shown by our lenders. We are now able to concentrate on managing and developing all our businesses."

In January, Moody's Investors Service downgraded \$1.7 billion of News Corporation debt, saying although a successful debt restructuring would ease its liquidity problems, the terms of the deal would erode investor protection measures.

## Advertisement Concerning Tender No. 1/91 - Jordanian - Syrian Land Transport Co.

Jordanian — Syrian Land Transport Co. announces extension of closing date of tender No. 1/91 to supply spare parts for its trucks to be at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday Feb. 20th, 1991 instead of Feb 6th, 1991 due to addition of certain conditions.

Firms that purchased a copy of above tender are kindly requested to contact Josyco offices to obtain a copy of the supplement.

Hisham Astour  
Chairman / General Manager

## FOR RENT Modern Furnished Apartments

Studio - one bedroom and two bedrooms. Central heating and telephones.

Location: Jabal Amman bet. 3rd & 4th Circle.

Owner Tel: 641443 - 642351

## WANTED APARTMENT TO RENT

2 - 3 bedrooms in Abdoun, furnished to suit single European.

Must have large reception area.

Long lease preferred in modern, well appointed building.

Contact telephone number 818351.

## Bush sends Congress

## \$1.4 trillion budget today

The size of the deficit will be influenced by the length and depth of the recession, which was already biting hard before the Gulf crisis began.

Administration officials have predicted that the economy will turn around by mid-year. But that may prove optimistic if the war drags on.

"If you get (a war) beyond three months you begin to risk consumer confidence erosion and that would abort any meaningful recovery," Federal Reserve (central bank) Board Chairman Alan Greenspan said in a New York Times interview last week.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office predicts the recession, sparked by excessive public and commercial borrowing that led to a partial collapse of the U.S. banking system, will end in the next few months.

It projects no economic growth at all this calendar year but sees the economy expanding 3.3 per cent in calendar 1992.

It paints a similar picture for unemployment, projecting a jump to 6.6 per cent this year and a 0.4 percentage point drop in

1992. The jobless rate for January rose to 6.2 per cent, up from 6.1 per cent in December.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the costs of bailing out failed savings banks and covering other recession costs will jump to \$103 billion for fiscal 1991 and \$98 billion for fiscal 1992.

Bush is constrained by the spending limits set by a deficit reduction law which seeks to cut the deficit by \$482 billion over five years.

The 1992 defence budget will be limited to approximately \$291 billion. The costs of Operation Desert Storm in the Gulf are, however, being covered separately.

International programmes will be limited to about \$19 billion and domestic programmes to around \$208 billion.

Some proposed tax cuts shelved last year are expected to be revived in the new budget. In his State of the Union address last week Bush said he planned to include a reduction in taxes on capital gains from the sale of long-term assets.

years. It is the principal port for good bound to and from southern China.

Both Hong Kong and Singapore are free ports. Singapore levies no import or export duties except on fuel, tobacco and a few other items. Foreign exchange controls are almost nonexistent, as are controls on the flow of capital and goods.

Yeo said Singapore recorded 188 million tonnes in total oil and non-oil cargo through last year, an eight per cent increase on 1989.

Singapore is also the world's third-largest refining centre, after Houston and Rotterdam. Its five refineries have a crude oil capacity of more than one million barrels per day.

Zelia Cardoso de Mello. She threatened to take the matter to court.

## De Klerk begins media campaign to sell South African reforms

CAPE TOWN (R) — President F.W. De Klerk placed full-page advertisements in newspapers Sunday urging blacks and whites to "listen to the dreams of others" and build a united post-apartheid South Africa.

The advertisements showed a soaring dove of peace and the slogan: "Politicians can work out a new South Africa, but they can't make it work — only you can do that."

The message suggested De Klerk's year-long dismantling of the 42-year-old apartheid system was complete and the time had come to decide on the type of democracy to replace it.

"For years and years we've agonised and argued about what divides us. But now it's time to think about the things that unite us," the message ran.

De Klerk won international acclaim Friday by announcing plans to repair remaining laws upholding the system that denies majority blacks the vote and regulates daily life according to skin colour.

But his plans to scrap segregation of housing and land ownership and abandon the classification of people by race outraged white rightists and won only a cautious welcome from Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), the main anti-apartheid group, which said blacks remained voteless.

The ANC noted De Klerk's speech to parliament made no mention about speeding up the release of 3,000 political prisoners or the return of up to 30,000 political exiles.

Mandela has said he will consider suspending his reform talks with De Klerk unless the exiles and prisoners are home and draconian security laws scrapped by April 1.

The government is due this week to give more details of its legislative programme and unveil the extent of the pro-reform media campaign it plans to launch around the country.

"You want justice for yourself. You want peace around you. You want prosperity for yourself and your family," the newspaper advertisement ran.

"Now is the time to speak out loud and clear about these dreams that unite us — and more importantly to listen to the dreams of others."

Newspapers said De Klerk's latest reforms rang the death knell for punitive anti-apartheid economic sanctions and boycotts on access to world sport, arts and science.

"The battle against apartheid is over. The greater battle for a democratic South Africa has begun," said the Johannesburg Sunday Times.

"(De Klerk) and his government have come to terms with apartheid's demise and are prepared for the challenge of constructing a new democratic order," said the Cape Town Argus.

De Klerk and Mandela envisage widening their reform talks to include other major black and white organisations to thrash out how to organise full negotiations on a new constitution.

## Winnie Mandela goes on trial today

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Winnie Mandela is facing a trial that may be the greatest challenge in her turbulent life as well as a threat to the African National Congress (ANC) and South Africa's peace hopes.

Meanwhile right-wing whites opposing new political reforms said openly that South Africa's racism division should be strengthened, not weakened.

With out apartheid whites would be swamped by blacks, who outnumber whites by five-to-one, they said.

Right-wing leader Andries Truett said De Klerk had abandoned whites to a future of black domination by planning to give blacks social and political rights.

Truett and colleagues in his opposition Conservative Party (CP) stormed out of parliament in disgust Friday when De Klerk announced plans to scrap segregation of housing and land ownership and classification of the population by race.

Prosecutors said the trial may be postponed because four of Mrs. Mandela's seven co-defendants skipped bail in December. Prosecutors will make a decision Monday on whether to postpone or proceed with the trial.

Jerry Richardson, head of the disbanded bodyguards, the Mandela United Football Club, was convicted of murder in the case and is appealing a death sentence.

A judge has ruled Mrs. Mandela was present during the assault, at which the youths were accused of having sex with a white Methodist minister. Seipei also was accused of being a police spy.

The trial involves more than the future of a flamboyant activist who has for years shocked opponents and delighted supporters with blistering attacks on apartheid and anything else that displeases her. The trial also poses a threat to the credibility of her husband, the ANC and talks on ending white rule.

For many blacks, especially the militant young, Mrs. Mandela is "mother of the nation," a fighter who calls for the violent destruction of apartheid.

The eight packages were wrapped.

## Salvador rebels return missiles to Nicaragua

MANAGUA (Agencies) — Salvadoran rebels returned eight Soviet-made anti-aircraft missiles Saturday from a lot of 28 obtained illegally from Nicaragua's Sandinista People's Army.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebels said 11 of the SAM-7 and SAM-14 heat-seeking missiles have been fired, presumably in their war against the U.S.-backed Salvadoran government, and that the remaining nine missiles would be returned in El Salvador later Saturday to be returned to Nicaragua.

The FMLN rebels said they would use other missiles obtained elsewhere against the U.S.-backed Salvadoran military.

The rebels were returning the Sandinista missiles apparently to avoid ruffling the feathers of Nicaragua's democratically elected government.

FMLN Commander Maria Marta Valladares told reporters at the Mexican embassy, where the eight missiles were turned in, that most of the FMLN's other missiles were U.S.-made Red Eyes.

Ms. Valladares declined to comment on where the Red Eyes had been obtained. But Nicaraguan Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo said Friday his government was checking reports that the now-demobilised Nicaraguan contra rebels, who fought the Sandinista government during the 1980s, have sold U.S.-supplied anti-aircraft missiles the FMLN.

Nicaragua's Sandinista military was created during the Sandinista's 11-year rule and remains the national army, even though U.S.-backed President Violeta Chamorro took office last April after beating the Sandinistas in national elections.

Ms. Valladares and three other FMLN guerrilla leaders delivered the eight missiles — four SAM-7 missiles and four SAM-14s — to the Mexican embassy here.

The eight packages were wrapped.

## Pakistan-Afghanistan quake toll mounts as snow bars rescuers

ISLAMABAD (R) — Snow still kept rescuers away from several earthquake-stricken areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan Sunday, two days after the severe tremor that may have killed more than 400 people.

Pakistani officials confirmed 175 deaths in the country's North West Frontier Province but said the toll might exceed 200 as they awaited information from remote snow-bound villages.

Army helicopters carried medicines and other essential supplies to far-flung areas in the three badly-hit Pakistani districts of Swat, Dir and Chitral.

The quake was measured in Pakistan at 6.8 on the Richter Scale, stronger than a 1974 tremor in the region that measured only 6.3 but killed 5,200 people.

Government officials said large-scale relief work was in progress with relief teams trying to reach all stricken areas.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has opened a relief fund with an appeal for generous donations.

"It was one of the most powerful earthquakes for many years to

hit Afghanistan," Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman, M.H. Mukammel said in Kabul. "But we have no means to reach the remote areas to assess the damage and casualties."

"Reports are still coming in, and it may be many days before we know the real extent of the tragedy," he said. Many quake-hit areas were buried under deep snow, hampering rescue efforts.

Najibullah had set up a special commission to coordinate rescue and relief efforts, Mukammel said.

A number of homes and buildings collapsed in snow-covered Kabul, where officials said at least four people were killed.

Long vertical cracks could be seen on the walls of many others in the city of two million people.

Aid officials said many villages in the countryside, where houses are mostly made of mud, could have been devastated.

## Collage

### 1 million Sudanese children born

KHARTOUM (R) — An official said Sunday that children were born in Sudan, where the famine is endemic.

Sudanese News Agency quoted Comptroller of Statistics, as saying the population of 26 million was growing at an annual rate of 1.6 per cent. The child mortality rate of Sudanese were 15 years of age.

Another census was expected to be taken in 1990.

"It is a gesture that we make, and it (missiles returned) corresponds to a delivery made to us out of sympathy but not authorised," she said.

Colonel Gonzalez, another FMLN commander, said earlier that the rebels decided to return the missiles "as an indication that we consider the Nicaraguan government to be legitimate and that the Sandinista People's Army is a bastion of defence of the process of democratisation."

The Sandinista army first denied then admitted that four of its air force officers had stolen 28 missiles from army depots and sold them to the FMLN.

The officers, who were arrested, claimed they gave, not sold, the missiles out of sympathy with the Salvadoran rebels.

FMLN leaders said they would give the Nicaraguan government a list of the other 11 missiles they said were fired, with the missiles' serial numbers and the dates and places they were fired. Reporters were not given access to that information.

BOSTON (AP) — A man wanted his victim to know he was grateful for the money he had so he sent thank-you notes.

Pancare's wallet was stolen two weeks ago as he was

friend to a subway stop in the

— along with the note, "I was

thank you for the \$13 you

in it," the anonymous letter

"I needed to get home,

know if I had asked you

me you would have said no,

thank you," Pancare's

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